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(See Story on Page 6)

THE ILLINOIS ENGINEER, MAY, 1950—VOLUME XXVI, NO. 5

Address all communications to the Society at 204 Civil Engineering Hall, Urbana, Illinois.
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Affiliated with the National Society of Professional Engineers

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ILLINOIS ENGINEER: W. A. OLIVER, Editor-in-Chief; H. E. BABBITT, Associate Editor; MAX SUTER, Correspondent to American Engineer

Of Professional Interest

The Functions of the ILLINOIS ENGINEER

What are the functions of the magazine whose publication should be and is one of the principal and more important of society activities? Certainly the magazine's importance to the Society will not be questioned when the time and money devoted to it are considered. In broad generalities, the prime purposes of *The Illinois Engineer* are (1) to keep the membership informed concerning society business and progress and (2) to keep them informed concerning the thinking and activities going on in the engineering profession at all levels, local and national. In a word, it proposes to present to the membership the news of the profession in and out of the Society.

The magazine has another purpose which, while somewhat secondary to those presented above, is none-the-less of some importance to the overall and longtime welfare of the Society and should not be overlooked. *The Illinois Engineer* is the one sure and continuing point of contact between the member and his Society. He may never attend an Annual Meeting, he may not attend chapter meetings, but once a month, when he receives the magazine, whether he reads it or not, the member is reminded that he is a part of the I.S.P.E. with all that that idea implies. For such a member, a bright-colored cover and an eye-catching cover picture are all important. He may be tempted to look inside.

The overall objectives of the magazine have been presented. How are these objectives attained? Upon examination, the publication will speak for itself. Short articles concerning the business of the Society or profession, news of chapter activities, an occasional longer paper usually dealing with the primary aims of the Society—the social and economic welfare of the professional engineer—all of these are familiar to every one of the magazine's readers.

The Illinois Engineer aims to serve the membership of the Illinois Society to the fullest extent possible within the scope of the coverage indicated but also, of necessity, keeps within the funds allotted to it in the society budget.

Editor.

I.S.P.E. INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT

At the Chapter Presidents and Secretaries Conference held in Urbana on April 15, it was suggested that the Society increase its employment activities, particularly through *The Illinois Engineer*. One step toward the accomplishment of this purpose could be taken with the aid of the society membership. If you need engineers in your organization or know of opportunities in other organizations, make the fact known in the columns of *The Illinois Engineer*. If you are available for a new connection, let us have the necessary data. These notices can be published blind or open as desired.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judging from comments subsequent, the conference of chapter presidents, secretaries, and membership committee chairmen at Urbana April 15 satisfied those in attendance. Representatives from all but the Egyptian and Rockford chapters were present and presumably will report their impressions to their respective chapters. To what extent the conference was beneficial and worthwhile will be revealed by future results.

The conference was divided into five topics covering the responsibilities or duties and the work to be done respectively by the presidents, the vice-presidents, the secretary-treasurers, the editors, and the membership committee chairmen. Each topic was introduced with a brief discussion by the appropriate State officer, and each chapter was insured opportunity to offer its comments and to express its opinions on each topic, by rigid adherence to a time schedule that would make such possible. Discussions that could not be completed within the allotted time were temporarily terminated and postponed until the end, when they were revived and continued for as long as the representatives desired. In this way the whole gamut of questions raised by the representatives was completely covered by discussion totaling six hours, including luncheon.

It is impossible to review here all the details of the discussions. Your chapter representatives who were present should do this for you at your chapter meetings; if they haven't already done so, insist they do so at your next chapter meeting—they have a digest of the discussions to refresh their memory! The questions which provoked the most discussion related to public affairs and community interest, especially the degree of engineers' participation in consideration and discussion of public improvement projects and in political affairs. Means of getting favorable publicity and public attention, committee work, membership solicitation, maintenance of secretarial and treasurer's records, dues collections, editorial policies, programs, attendance, the Chapter Handbook, advertising for *The Illinois Engineer*—all these and other topics received due attention and were dis-

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READ THE ADVERTISEMENTS

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$2.00 per year in advance to members of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. \$4.00 per year in advance to non-members in U.S.A. and its possessions, Canada, and Mexico. Foreign \$6.00. Single copies 40c. Published by the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, Inc., at 119 West Park Avenue, Champaign, Illinois.
Entered as Second Class Matter April 27, 1949, at the Post Office, Champaign, Illinois.

cussed at such length as the representatives presumably desired.

At the conference I read a letter which I had just received from Mr. Leonard Schwartz, Director of the State Department of Conservation. In the letter he presented the policy which the Department proposed to follow with respect to the engineering aspects of the construction of dams and development of recreational lakes sponsored by organized groups in Illinois. The policy involves the utilization of competent engineering services, and in this the Department desires the cooperation of our Society. A copy of the letter has been sent to the president and secretary of every chapter, together with my appeal that each chapter immediately do what is necessary to prepare itself to discharge its part of our responsibilities in the matter. I consider both the letter and the proposed policy significant, in that they exemplify an ideal for professional cooperation between State and other public agencies on the one hand and private consulting engineers on the other. I trust that we shall not fail to do our part to activate this arrangement.

There seems prevalent confusion as regards the Legislative Action and the Legislative Analyzing committees. The Legislative Action Committee is the same as the former Legislative Committee of long years standing, and its functions will be the same as that the old committee has discharged, namely to work with the State Legislature for the passage of laws we desire and for the defeat of laws we oppose. The functions of the newly organized Legislative Analyzing Committee are more important on the chapter level than on the State level. It is my concept that the chapter Legislative Analyzing committees are the effective groups in that they should (1) formulate and submit to the State Committee any proposed legislation their chapter desires, (2) obtain chapter attitudes concerning proposed legislation, by presenting to the chapters a digest of such legislation with their comments pro and con, and (3) make and maintain personal contact with all legislators in the chapter's area of responsibility and acquaint these legislators with the engineers' views on proposed legislation. The State committee would serve simply as a "clearing house" to (1) unify and coordinate the activities and opinions of the chapters, (2) to disseminate to the chapter committees information about legislation they should analyze, and (3) transmit to the Legislative Action Committee the result of chapter analyses and Board of Direction recommendations. That such a committee as the Legislative Analyzing Committee is needed became obvious at the annual meeting in Decatur when the convention approved two courses of action that naturally fell within its sphere. These were (1) the approval of the report of the Committee on Topographic Mapping with the recommendation that in each chapter there be constituted a committee to contact local legislators and to direct their attention to and to obtain their support for appropriations for topographic mapping and (2) the approval of the resolution calling for solici-

tation of contributions to pay for a legislative analysis. These solicitations to be made by a committee consisting of at least one member of each chapter. When I conceived and formulated the Legislative Analyzing Committee, I was wholly unaware that these courses of action were to be proposed. They typify the committee duties and functions. It is hardly necessary to point out that this committee must work in most harmonious coordination with other committees, especially the Legislative Action, the Registration Laws, the Public Interests, and the Topographic Mapping committees, as well as the Board of Direction. And it is time right now for each chapter's Legislative Analyzing Committee to start its program of contacting local legislators. The completion of the organization of the State committee has been delayed because it could not be effected until all chapters had reported their chairmen.

The hospitality of the Joliet chapter was enjoyed on April 18, when the mutual problems and interests of the State Society and chapter were discussed.

GEORGE E. EKBLAW, *President.*

LIST OF REFERENCE BOOKS THAT CANDIDATES MAY USE ON EXAMINATIONS FOR REGISTERED ENGINEER IN ILLINOIS

1. Merriman-Wiggin American Civil Engineers' Handbook
J. Wiley & Sons
2. O'Rourke-Agg General Engineering Handbook — McGraw-Hill
3. Urquhart Civil Engineering Handbook — McGraw-Hill
4. Seelye Data Book for Civil Engineers (Vol. I and II)—J. Wiley & Sons
5. Marks Mechanical Engineers' Handbook — McGraw-Hill
6. Kent Kent's Mechanical Engineers' Handbook (I and II)—J. Wiley & Sons
7. Pender-DelMar Electrical Engineers Handbook—J. Wiley & Sons
8. Pender-McIlwain Electrical Communication & Electronics—J. Wiley & Sons
9. Peele Mining Engineers' Handbook—J. Wiley & Sons
10. Kidder-Parker Architects' & Builders' Handbook — Wiley & Sons
11. Perry Chemical Engineers' Handbook — McGraw-Hill
12. Knowlton Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers—McGraw-Hill
13. Oberg and Jones Machinery's Handbook—Industrial Press
14. Steel Construction—A.I.S.C.
15. Handbook of Chemistry and Physics
Chemical Rubber Publishing Co.
16. Eshbach Handbook of Engineering Fundamentals—J. Wiley & Sons
17. Trautwine The Civil Engineers' Reference Book
London, Chapman and Hall, Ltd.
18. Blanchard American Highway Engineers' Handbook—J. Wiley & Sons
19. Searles & Ives Field Engineering—J. Wiley & Sons
20. Ralph G. Hudson Engineers Manual—J. Wiley & Sons

Personal Notes and text books may not be used.

Other reference books may be used if approved at the examination by the representative of the examining committee.

Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

1950 ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

National Society of Professional Engineers

HOTEL STATLER, BOSTON, JUNE 8, 9 AND 10, 1950

N. S. P. E. CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN NEW ENGLAND VACATIONLAND

The 15th Annual Convention of the N.S.P.E. is to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, June 8, 9, and 10, 1950. The Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers cordially invites you to attend the convention and, if possible, stay longer and enjoy a New England vacation. The general sessions of the convention at which the social business is transacted are open to all members, though only the official delegates are permitted to vote. These sessions have always proved most interesting. The subject matter to be discussed at each session will be announced in "American Engineer."

Make reservations as early as possible. Address inquiries to Mr. Alfred Abboud, E. B. Badger and Sons, Inc., 75 Pitts St., Boston 14, Massachusetts.

SHORTS ON RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITY

"Because the Point 4 program will involve extensive engineering in all its phases, the administrator of the program should be a professional engineer, and preferably one experienced in the administration of large engineering projects," Paul H. Robbins, Executive Director, National Society of Professional Engineers, told the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations recently. The Committee is conducting hearings on President Truman's program to aid underdeveloped areas.

"That competent engineering consultation can be secured for a maximum of \$50.00 per day as now called for in the Point 4 legislation currently under consideration, is surprisingly unrealistic," Paul H. Robbins, Executive Director of the National Society of Professional Engineers, pointed out recently to the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations.

In suggesting that the figure be raised to \$100.00, Robbins said in a memorandum to Senator Tom Connally, (D. Tex.), Committee Chairman, that present economic conditions and the prevailing fees for engineering services, dictated the increase.

Major General Lewis A. Pick, Chief of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, will be one of the principal

speakers at the annual meeting of the National Society of Professional Engineers to be held June 8th, 9th, and 10th at the Hotel Statler in Boston, Massachusetts, it has been announced.

N.S.P.E. TAKES STAND ON ADVANCE PLANNING

"President Truman's recommendation to transfer the administration of the Advance Planning Program from the Bureau of Community Facilities, General Services Administration, to the Housing and Home Finance Agency, should be rejected," Paul H. Robbins, Executive Director of the National Society of Professional Engineers, today advised Senator John L. McClellan, (D-Ark.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments.

Robbins summarized NSPE's position as follows:

1. The proposal is contrary to the Hoover Commission Recommendations. The Hoover Commission recommended that the Community Planning Services of the General Services Administration be transferred to the Interior Department. The Hoover Commission reports contemplate that the Interior Department will become the primary Engineering Service Agency of the government.
2. The Advance Planning law specifically excludes housing from its operation and it is therefore inconsistent to place a non-housing function into an agency concerned primarily with housing.
3. The Housing and Home Finance Agency has had no experience in administering Advance Planning of a public works nature.
4. Since the operations of the Housing and Home Finance Agency are geared more directly to considerations which are not in line with those which are involved in public works activities, placing of advance planning in this agency could result in a failure to give the emphasis intended by Congress to this program.

It was further pointed out that inasmuch as the advance planning program is of a limited duration, expiring on October 13th, 1951, a transfer of its administration at this time would necessarily result in confusion, delay, and a slowing down of the program at a time when it is reaching its full peak of effectiveness.

The best way to keep good acts in memory is to refresh them with new.—Cato.

I. S. P. E. HOLDS P., S. AND M. CONFERENCE

Chapter Presidents, Secretaries, and Membership Chairmen met in Urbana on Saturday, April 15th. President George E. Ekblaw set the theme of the conference with a brief but interesting talk emphasizing the selection of Chapter Committees and their work. All of the thirty-four in attendance were invited to talk and ask questions. Without exception each man had something to contribute to the meeting.

As time was very much at a premium, talks had to be limited but all the items on the agenda were thoroughly discussed. Conferences of this kind do much to help Chapter Officers orient themselves and are so valuable that they should become an annual affair and should be held as early in the year as possible. This was the second of such conferences, the first being held in Springfield last year.

Minutes of the conference have been transcribed and were sent out with the Bulletin of April 22nd. A similar kind of meeting on the Chapter level for all Chapter Officers and committee chairmen would be very much in order.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER SPONSORS A FINE BOYS' NIGHT

(From Central Illinois Chapter "Whispers")

One of the important aims of the Society will be furthered in fine fashion at our April Meeting which has been designated as the annual Boys' Night. The Program Committee has arranged an appropriate program calling on prominent local Professional Engineers each to describe an interesting experience in the field of Engineering.

Meeting—Thursday, April 27th, 1950.

Place—Masonic Temple.

Time—6:30 p.m.

Program—Annual Boys' Night with five speakers. George B. Richardson, Walter Scherer, B. D. Toney, Sr., Frank Mueller and G. Lorenze Miller will each present brief talks on an interesting project in their particular Professional Engineering Field.

The Arrangements Committee promises the excellent food and service that has been our fare this year, for the usual \$1.50 per. President John Askren has arranged a fine list of interested seniors from the community's high schools so that each of us may have a personal guest in the event that our own son is too young to eat, and talk along with the crowd. In turning in your reservation please indicate whether you will bring your own candidate or would like to host one or more of Askren's fine chaps. (These are not all John's sons.)

JOINT MEETING SUCCESSFUL AT SPRINGFIELD

Capital Chapter combined its March 27, 1950, meeting with four other local organizations to promote "inter-society" coordination and to present a program of popular interest to the public for the promotion of pro-

fessional recognition. The meeting, held in the auditorium of the Centennial Building, Springfield, featured an illustrated talk on "The Contracting Industry Studies the Huge Road Construction Job Ahead" by A. M. Carter, Manager, Highway Division, Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. Approximately 250 attended the lecture.

J. P. Murphy, Chapter President, presented the special guests of the evening including Milo Flickinger, Executive Secretary, and Wm. Kewley, President of the Illinois Section of the A.G.C., and Director Charles Casey, Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings. The speaker of the evening was introduced by C. M. Hathaway, Chief Engineer, Division of Highway Organizations co-sponsoring the meeting with Capital Chapter were the Springfield Engineers Club; the local chapter, American Society of Civil Engineers; the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers, and the Illinois Section of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. Local arrangements for the meeting were made under the direction of Leslie F. Ryburn, chairman, program committee.

L. D. HUDSON.

JOBS FOR RECENT ENGINEERING GRADUATES

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics states that young engineers will be a glut on the market for a few years. Figures are presented to support this view. On the other hand, a report recently published by the American Society for Engineering Education states that instead of the surplus forecast by the B.L.S., engineering graduates will be in short supply. They base their prediction on studies of present data trends in high school and engineering college enrollments which are shown to be on the decrease.

Take your pick.

However, rather close observation of placement activities at one college of engineering during recent years would lead to an acceptance of the A.S.E.E. report being more probably correct even though the graduate has a much tougher time getting a job now than he did a year or so ago. An ever-expanding industry plus an ever-broadening demand for engineering training fields which would have been considered entirely alien to the engineer a short time ago would seem to indicate support for the optimistic point of view.

Nevertheless, as stated in the preceding paragraph jobs are at the present moment hard to get. You have to scratch for them. Consequently, if you have use for a young engineer or know of someone else who does drop a line to society headquarters specifying your needs. You'll find that there is no greater satisfaction to be obtained anywhere than that which comes when you help a younger member of your profession. *Editor.*

COST OF LIVING INDEX

The correction factor to be applied to the I. S. P. E. Schedule of Minimum Fees and Salaries was 167.0 for March, 1950. This factor is based upon the U. S. Department of Labor's most recent Consumer Price Index.

ITEMS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

This column is read and enjoyed. Send in items (any of a personal nature is good copy) concerning yourself or your friends. Give us the facts. We'll write them for you.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Kewanee Boiler Corporation held in New York City Monday, April 24, it was announced that W. B. Russell, member S.P.E. and Kewanee chapter, had been elected President of the Kewanee Boiler Corporation to fill the vacancy created by the death of R. B. Dickson on April 1950. Mr. Russell was also elected a director of Kewanee Boiler Corporation.

* * *

W. Clark Root, NSPE and a member of the Champaign County Chapter, was elected to the Urbana High School Board in the April Primaries. Engineers make excellent school board members, and as a beginning in politics, the school board is a most constructive way to start.

* * *

Professor Emil W. Lehman, NSPE, has been more than his usual genial self during the past week. One of his daughters gave birth to twin boys. Is there a trend here? This is the second Champaign County Chapter member who has become a grandfather of twins during the past three months. The other was Professor W. J. Nutnam whose daughter gave birth to twin girls.

* * *

President George E. Ekblaw and Assistant Secretary Roberts visited the Joliet Chapter on April 18th. President Ekblaw had a tough assignment in following Art Carlson's melodious quartet but his talk on the National Society held the interest of the chapter members exceptionally well.

* * *

B. C. "Curt" Taylor, President of Rock River Chapter, has been promoted by his company, the Illinois Northern Utilities Company from Dixon, to the Rockford plant. He will finish his term as President of Rock River. Eventually Rock River will lose a most valued member but Rockford Chapter will gain one. Congratulations, Curt.

* * *

Walter G. Scherer, Decatur, has recently joined the firm of the Superior Welding Co., Decatur, Ill., and will present them as Sales-Engineer. He was formerly associated with the Leader Iron Works as Chief-Engineer from 1934 until his recent resignation. During this time he was in charge of design of petroleum refineries, distilleries, solvent extraction plants, etc.

To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it.—Charlton Collins.

VOX SECRETARII

P. E. ROBERTS, *Asst. Secretary*

Membership Inventory

The first membership hurdle which the Illinois Society must clear is in sight and possible—2,000 members by July 1st. The year 1949 was one of consolidation and strengthening Chapter membership, that is, renewing the interest of present members and the reduction of loss of members. That a good job was done by all Chapters is borne by the accompanying chart:

Chapter Membership	This Year	Last Year	Plus	Percentage Increase
Ambraw	42	41	1	7
Capital	189	116	73	39
Central Illinois	143	140	3	2
Champaign County	143	125	18	12
Chicago	483	402	81	17
DuKane	59	39	20	34
Egyptian	56	53	3	5
Illinois Valley	56	54	2	4
Joliet	63	49	14	22
Kewanee	60	51	9	15
Lake County	78	71	7	9
Madison County	48	46	2	4
Peoria area	41	28	13	32
Rockford	63	*	*	*
Rock River	108	161	10	*
St. Clair	84	81	3	4
Miscellaneous	92	265	—173	*
Total	1808	1722	86 net	4.76%

* Note: During 1949, Rock River generously divided its area with our newest chapter, Rockford.

The figures in the table were taken from an inventory count made on April 19th. Last year the Society increased from 1722 on April 15th to a total of 1859 on December 31st. On April 15th last year there were 130 delinquents and at the end of the year this total had been reduced to 85 which were dropped. This year we have 103 delinquents so if we follow the same pattern we will have a probable drop of 67 on December 31st. Consequently we must have at least 2067 names on the membership roster on December 31st if we are to finish up the year with a net of 2,000 enrolled in the Illinois Society.

Dues Payment

Dues payments continue to show on the plus side in comparison with last year, the table gives the story:

	April 21, 1950	April 22, 1949	Plus	Minus
Current	1392 77 %	1094 63.3%	298	
In Arrears	320 17.7%	508 29.4%		188
Delinquent	96 5.3%	126 7.3%		30
	1808	1728		

Refresher Courses

The Illinois Society can be justly proud that its Chapters recognized the need for and did so much to contribute to the success of the refresher courses which have been conducted with the cooperation of the Division of Extension of the University of Illinois. R. K. (Bob) Newton, NSPE and a member of Champaign County

Chapter does a thorough and truly engineering job on the refresher course classes as top man in engineering in the Division of Extension. About 300 men in seven cities are finishing the spring classes and will take the examination on May 23rd and 24th. Membership chairmen will find that these classes are a rich source for engineer-in-training prospective members.

Miscellany

More and more out of town members are dropping into the office when they are attending short courses or have other business in the Twin Cities. We always like to see "visiting firemen"—come in. . . . Its official—Professor Babbitt has been granted a sabbatical leave during the first semester of next school year or from September to February 1st. . . . The office of the Secretary of the Society is moving during May to a building on the corner of Wright and Green Streets in Champaign—our new address 631 East Green St., Champaign.

COVER PICTURE NORTHWESTERN TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE BUILDING

Evanston, Illinois

Northwestern Technological Institute is located near the north end of the Evanston, Illinois, campus of Northwestern University. The building faces Sheridan Road while the rear adjoins the shores of Lake Michigan. In addition to the five departments of engineering (chemi-

cal, civil, electrical, mechanical, and industrial) the Institute building contains the physics and chemistry departments of the College of Liberal Arts. Each of the department is, in effect, housed in a wing of the building which in plan is shaped like two letter E's placed back to back and joined by a large central structure. The wings are each three stories high, while the backs of the E's and central structure are four stories high. Additionally the west central structure has a fifth story which extends into the two towers at opposite ends of this section. The back of the south E has a full sub-basement.

The Institute building was made possible by a gift of \$6,735,000 from the Walter P. Murphy foundation in 1939. (Mr. Murphy died in 1942 and bequeathed the residue of his estate, in excess of \$20,000,000 to Northwestern University for the continuing development of the Institute). The building was designed by Holabird and Root, architects, and the general contractor was the R. C. Wieboldt Co. The Murphy Foundation retained McKimm, Mead, and White, architects, of New York City as advisers and agents. The general design is modified Gothic at its best.

It has been estimated that the daily population figure for the Institute is in the order of 2,000 individuals. As is the usual experience with a building of this type, the facilities were crowded almost as soon as the structure was completed. Research space is at a premium and relief is needed. The future of the Institute seems well assured.

News From Chapters

Joliet Chapter

The regular April meeting of the Joliet Chapter was held Tuesday evening, April 18, 1950, at the Candlelight, with 19 members and 10 guests present.

Following dinner, the meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Seiberling, who presided and urged the membership to campaign for new members and also to take more active part in civic affairs.

We were then delightfully entertained by a quartette and piano accompanist led by our genial Mr. Art Carlson.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Past State President Jas. Whelan then introduced our new State President, Dr. Geo. Ekblaw, who spoke on the aims and purposes of the society and the functions of the various committees.

Following a discussion on the above subject, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

F. H. TITTSWORTH, *Secretary*

Lake County Chapter

The regular monthly meeting of the Lake County Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers

was held Wednesday, March 15, 1950, at the Chateau du Jour restaurant. Dinner was served to members and guests.

The business meeting was called to order by President Simonsen at 8:15 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of February 15 were read and approved. Mr. Kramer advised the chapter that one of our members, Mr. L. Latz, had recently passed away. Mr. Kramer moved and Mr. Needham seconded that the chapter extend its sympathy to the survivors. Motion carried. Mr. Richard Thacker advised the chapter that the Lake County Zoning Commission was holding hearings that might be of interest to the local Professional Engineers. The Secretary agreed to circularize the membership as to the particular hearings if he was advised in advance of the dates on which they were to be held.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Simonsen turned the meeting over to Chairman Drew who introduced Mr. Lash of Tractor motive Corporation. Mr. Lash in turn introduced Messrs Gurley, Molzahim and Hollman of Allis-Chalmers. Mr. Curley showed two movies illustrating the principles of their torque converters together with some of the designs, applications and use of equipment built with the

(Continued on page 9)

Problems Requiring Engineering Society Cooperation

DR. GUSTAV EGLOFF, Member N.S.P.E.
President Western Society of Engineers

(Presented at the 65th Annual Meeting, Decatur, Jan. 28, 1950)

Dr. Gustav Egloff, a chemical engineer of note, has written prolifically not only in his own technical field but, also, in the more general field of the welfare of the engineering profession. The accompanying paper is an example of this last. As President of the Western Society of Engineers, Dr. Egloff is well able to speak concerning the need for cooperation among Societies. He has been a member of the N.S.P.E. since 1947.

The basic problems involved in raising professional standing are common to all branches of engineering. Cooperation between individual societies is essential to their solution. Such organizations as the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, the American Association of Engineers, the Engineers' Council for Professional Development and the Engineers' Joint Council have made great strides in bringing about this cooperation. Within these groups, much can be done to solve the paramount problems of today. The most important of these is to broaden the collegiate curriculum so that the graduate will adjust himself more readily to society as a whole and to the practical application of his technical knowledge in the social as well as the industrial world. Engineering societies also have the responsibility of making evening courses available to engineers already practicing so that they may fill in gaps in their education. Another major problem which confronts the societies is that of getting better recognition by the public of the importance of engineers to mankind.

In arriving at the proper studies both for college students and post-graduates, the criticisms most often leveled at the engineering profession should be carefully considered. Probably the most frequent complaint is that engineers know too little of writing, speaking, economics and cultural subjects. The engineer actually needs an understanding of the contemporary world and its inhabitants in order to utilize his technical skill to the greatest advantage of society and himself. He must be able to express his ideas to others and understand how these ideas fit into the general economic and social picture.

Specifically the engineer needs more training in English, writing and speaking. Unless the engineer has a good grip on these tools, he cannot communicate his ideas in a coherent report to supervisors and co-workers. The unfortunate result of such deficiencies is that his ideas may be of little use to his employer or anyone else. Engineers also find it necessary to fit their work into the general economic pattern. Good courses in economics,

politics and the humanities particularly relating these fields to engineering, should also be a part of the educational program.

As the engineer makes professional advancement, he is very likely to become involved in labor relations problems. He will profit by a study of the past history of the labor movement and the present theories and practices. He also needs to understand political science rather thoroughly, not only in the interests of being an all-around good citizen, but for the reason that many statutes have a direct bearing on engineering work. Too often the engineer has shown little or no interest in these subjects. Worse than that he often shows an intolerance toward and a complete unwillingness to understand these matters.

The need for broader education is becoming more clearly recognized and a number of engineering schools have undertaken such programs. The professional societies should work together to encourage all schools to adopt this philosophy in education. There is another job to be done in this connection. Traditional courses in English, economics, etc., should be altered. New concepts of teaching and new types of courses are needed so that the engineering student will realize the relation of these subjects to his special field.

Great interest in economics could be inspired by showing the impact of some important engineering developments on civilization. If time would not permit a thorough study of economics in the undergraduate engineering course, those engineers who continue in graduate work would certainly benefit by learning how to analyze the business aspects of the profession. The material taught should be closely related to engineering and not presented in abstract form. An excellent start in this direction has been made in at least one place. The method used by them was to assign a concrete problem for the class to solve. One problem concerned the advisability of expanding a paper company. The class was divided into groups of two, each group being given different conditions in regard to raw materials, methods of pulping, and the final product. Following an intensive series of lectures and reading assignments on the pertinent principles of economics, the students analyzed the company problem in the light of current business conditions. At the end of the research period the results of the different groups were compared and discussed. The problem served very well to show the interdependence of technological methods and economic factors in the determination of business policy. Other schools

might well consider adopting a similar plan. The assignment of problems in the student's field of interest would bring home to him the value of understanding business principles. The engineer who intends to remain in the research field can benefit from a knowledge of economics as much as one who is directly connected with selling or production. Even when research is being conducted with no thought of immediate financial profit, a knowledge of economic factors will often point the way toward a profitable application.

It is hardly possible to give any more than an introduction to purely cultural subjects such as art and music, but more detailed knowledge of social conditions is strongly urged. Here again, time and the natural inclinations of most engineers might not be favorable to the introduction of a course in sociology into the engineering curriculum. However, as in the case of economics, a start in the right direction can be made by showing the profound effect of advances in engineering on the world's mode of life. It is a dramatic story, and should not be left to dawn slowly and by chance on the engineer's consciousness. The proper telling of the story in conjunction with instruction in engineering principles will not only arouse the student's interest in the world around him, but make him proud to be an engineer.

There is also much to be done in improving the actual engineering courses so that the student can apply his knowledge more readily to the real technical problems of the industrial world. It has often been said that the average engineering course places too much emphasis on specific and narrow problems. Technology is changing so rapidly that often techniques learned by a student are obsolete by the time he enters industry. Another frequently heard criticism is that graduates have learned a conglomeration of facts, but cannot relate them to each other. Consequently, the school might better prepare the student for professional life by giving him a thorough grounding of fundamentals, but spending little class time on specific applications. The time saved could be used on simple research problems in which the student would be more or less on his own. Thus he would learn how to go about finding necessary information and how to apply the fundamental principles of engineering to new situations. In writing and presenting orally a report on his investigations, he would gain valuable experience in organization and effective presentation of ideas. An approach of this kind would probably get much better results than a simple transplantation of a regular liberal arts English course into the engineering curriculum.

When the engineer completes his scholastic training and enters industry on a permanent basis, he can fill his specific position much better if he knows his work fits into the general scheme of the company. Many large companies have well-organized "orientation courses" for new professional employees in which they learn the functions of various departments either as observers or

as actual participants. Other smaller companies have similar programs, or some less formal system to acquaint new personnel with the objectives and organization of the firm. Companies which have tried such plans have found that they lead to more alertness and closer cooperation, and are well worth the time spent. Some companies, however, are not yet enlightened in this respect and here the engineering societies can be of great help both to industry and to the young engineer by assisting in the organization of orientation programs.

Engineering societies have an equally great responsibility in helping their members who are already engaged in the practice of the profession. The education program of the Western Society of Engineers of Chicago and its four founding member societies serve as a good example. A group of societies in any metropolitan center would do well to formulate a similar program. For some time the Western Society has sponsored refresher courses in engineering to keep the practicing engineer up-to-date. These are particularly helpful to members preparing for the State Professional Engineering Examinations. For example, 75 practicing engineers have enrolled in a refresher course in structural engineering. The Society is now planning an expanded general education program to include subjects which may have been lacking in member's formal education. Courses in public speaking, economics and philosophy will be given this spring. At a later date, business English, advanced letter writing, public relations and editing will be included. A second course in economics will be offered so that the engineer can obtain a background in functions and processes of economic systems, population and natural resources, methods of financing, money standards and systems, the problem of business depressions, price structures, market control policies, the distribution of income, government financial policies and a study of capitalism and collectivism. Engineers who are in the least involved in management find labor relations a major problem. Accordingly, the Western Society plans to sponsor a course which will cover the development of the American labor movement, elements of collective bargaining, a study of labor relations, and a study of human relations factors and supervision. Two courses in political science will also be offered. The first will cover the development of American political institutions and the second will be a study of the laws on engineering, property and taxation.

Some companies have initiated a plan for sending employees back to colleges and universities for supplementary training. At least one organization has an arrangement by which an employee and a college professor replace each other for the period of a year. Such arrangements should do much in creating a better understanding between industry and educational institutions. The engineering societies should encourage men who have taken part in such programs to discuss their practicability before members who may be interested in formulating similar plans.

These suggested additions to engineering education

h during and after the formal education period will much to make the engineer a better all-around citizen. an individual, he will be better able to awaken the public to an appreciation of the importance of his profession. The matter of public recognition, however, is in which engineering societies can do much more. Course work alone will never endow the engineer with spirit of professional consciousness. This spirit can be brought about through the influence of experienced members of the profession. It is through contact with them, that younger engineers will comprehend their position in society and its responsibilities. In fostering professional consciousness the engineering society performs one of its most important functions. If each society does its utmost to inspire in its individual members a truly professional attitude, the combined efforts of the various societies to raise the profession of engineering to the eyes of the public will be a much simpler task. One way in which the engineer's value to society can be demonstrated is by constructive participation in civic affairs. Engineering societies can work together in an effort to get opportunities for their members to serve in their capacity. Engineers are often thought of as uninterested and apathetic toward community affairs. Most of them, however, are quite willing to serve if approached. In general, they are not aggressive and it is, therefore, the duty of engineering societies to provide the initiative.

When any problems of city, state or nation require the help of the engineers, the societies should make a joint effort to insure representation by qualified men of their profession. Once the wisdom of utilizing the talents of engineers becomes apparent, they will be sought after. The Western Society has been effective in bringing about such recognition of its membership. As an engineering society of recognized high standing, Western is frequently asked to furnish members for committees of the city and state on public engineering problems. For example, a number of Western Society members are on the City Planning Commission. Members are also working on the Sag-Calumet Navigation Project which is laying plans to make the Calumet river more navigable. The Western Society's Civic committee keeps in constant touch with civic affairs relevant to engineering. Examples of matters studied by the various sub-committees are civil service operation, registration laws, smoke abatement, sanitation, building codes, and traffic problems. They are deeply concerned with all engineering problems which affect the health, operation and beauty of the City. Similar activity by engineering societies on a national scale would do much to relieve the engineer of his "ivory tower" reputation.

A further reason for cooperation between engineering societies is that each can learn from the others. One society may be particularly successful in maintaining a high average of technical competence among its members. Another may have developed a highly effective public relations program. Most engineering societies are

in a constant state of worry over where the money will come from to carry out new and worthwhile programs. Perhaps they can learn a great deal from the societies which have more ample funds at their disposal. Both in carrying out individual society operations and in solving problems jointly, all societies can benefit by an exchange of experiences.

The Engineering profession as a whole can also profit from a study of the history of other professions such as the medical. As advised by Mason I. Lowance, M.D., in a recent address before the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, "In the Engineering profession, it behooves you to profit by our experiences. You are doing a wonderful job; the public should know it. . . ."—which is not the case at present.

In recent years, the engineering profession has become increasingly aware of its need for greater public appreciation. It has taken many forward steps but a long road still remains ahead. The problem is not so easy for engineers as it has been for lawyers and doctors who have much more direct individual contact with the public. We of the engineering profession have an even greater stake in our professional societies which must carry the burden in attaining due recognition for engineers.

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS

(Continued from page 6)

torque converters. Questions of the members were answered by the guests.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

M. T. ANDERSON, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Rockford Chapter

The meeting of April 13, 1950, was opened at 8:00 p.m. by President W. S. Howard. The minutes of the last meeting and the last directors meeting were read, and approved as read by Secretary Fred L. Fletcher.

A discussion on the number of meetings for the year was opened by President Howard. It is necessary for us to have four meetings during the year. After some discussion it was decided to leave the number of meetings open for the time being.

It was moved by W. H. Day and seconded by A. Armour that a dinner meeting be held during the latter part of May.

The discussion then turned to a joint meeting of the Rockford Chapter and the Rock River Chapter on the organization of a joint summer picnic with them.

H. Riedesel said he had a communication from the Blackhawk Section, Rock Island, requesting a joint meeting.

After some discussion the Secretary was directed to write a letter to the Rock River Chapter stating that we are desirous of holding a joint picnic and would like to hold membership on committees with them.

W. S. Howard discussed the present state of the membership and the necessity of expanding. He said there

are approximately 130 registered engineers in the Rockford Chapter territory and about the same number of possible associates. Everyone should be a Membership Committee and bring someone to the next meeting. He mentioned that the Traveling Secretary is available to attend Founder Society meetings and to solicit them for membership in the I.S.P.E.

Elmer Toussaint gave a report on the State Meeting. The major points of accomplishment are as follows:

A. Delineation of the territories of the Rockford and Rock River Chapters and the issuing of refunds on members to the respective Chapters.

B. Defeat of building proposal.

C. A proposal to appoint a legislative analyst.

D. Consideration of election of registered members to the National Society.

There being no further business the meeting was then turned over to the formal program for the evening.

This was devoted to a panel discussion of what the Society can do for its members. The following group of experts covered their respective subjects:

1. Arnold Lundgren—The Mechanics of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

2. E. M. Toussaint—Employer's View of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

3. W. H. Day—Legislative Activities of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

4. Charles Debes—Fees and Salaries.

FRED L. FLETCHER, *Secretary*

Central Illinois Chapter

The March meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers was held in the Tunnel of the St. Nicholas Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 1950. Mr. Harry A. Meinert called attention to the open house of the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois to be held on March 31st and April 1st.

Mr. John Howie discussed the requirements for State registration of engineers who are making application for membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Homer L. Chastain, who was recently appointed City Water Commissioner for the City of Decatur, spoke briefly about his new duties in this capacity.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. W. D. P. Warren thanking the Central Illinois Chapter for making him an Honorary member of the local chapter and presenting him with an Honorary membership card.

Our program for this month was quite a radical departure from the beaten path of engineering subjects and proved to be extremely interesting. Mr. D. E. Radcliffe, of A. C. Allyn & Co., presented an educational discussion on investment securities, which was followed by a talking moving picture. This picture was produced by the March of Time, and showed the inside workings of the New York Stock Exchange.

The discussion period following proved to be of so

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much interest and lasted so long that President John Askren decided it was too late to hold the special business meeting he had planned to have following the program. The attendance of 58 members and guests, the largest we have had in quite a while, was no doubt further evidence that the program as announced was a good drawing card.

FLOYD E. TROXEL, *Secretary*

Chicago Chapter

A dinner meeting was held April 19, 1950, at the Electric Club, 20 N. Wacker Drive, at 6:30 p.m., with 23 in attendance.

President Walls opened the meeting after the dinner at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion which carried, the minutes of the previous meeting were not read.

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neers Society were issued to the members present, a practice which will continue at future meetings.

The secretary read a letter from the vice-chairmen of entertainment for the convention in October of the National Council of State Boards of Engineers requesting donation of \$150 to defray expenses for entertainment of the conventioners. The letter outlined reasons for this request to our Chapter and after a short discussion a motion by Mr. Fensterle, seconded by Mr. Lonier, was approved by the members.

The secretary informed the membership of the work done by the past secretary, Mr. Fensterle, in ironing out the discrepancies in the rebates for membership due the

Chapter from the State Society. A letter from the State Secretary giving the final settlement was then presented and the amount of \$324.60 received with this letter was approved.

The members were informed that a check for \$400 was received from the State Society, refunding the money for our subscription to the Building Bonds.

The meeting was then turned over to the Program Chairman, Mr. Edwards, who introduced the guest speaker, C. Maxwell Stanley, Past President of the Iowa Engineering Society.

Mr. Stanley spoke on "Iowa's Approach to Unification."

The numerous questions asked the speaker and the discussions that followed showed evidence of the interest in the subject. Even after adjournment of the meeting, most of those present stayed another half hour to discuss the subject and further prod the speaker for more of his views.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

A dinner meeting was held March 15, 1950, at 6:30 p.m. at the Electric Club, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

After the dinner the President called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and other order of business to allow the program as arranged for the evening to proceed. This motion was made and passed.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Edwards, the Program Chairman who introduced Dr. Henry T. Heald, President of the Illinois Institute of Technology, who spoke on "Professional Education for Engineers."

There were 35 present at the meeting, which adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

EDWARD L. REITER, *Secretary*

Madison County Chapter

Following a 6:30 dinner at Hotel Fairmont, in Collinsville on April 11, 1950, a regular meeting of the Madison County Chapter of I.S.P.E. was called to order by President Flagg at 7:30 p.m. Guests were introduced, and Mr. Voorhees of the Membership Committee reported on new members. Twenty-four members and guests were present, including two members of the St. Clair County Chapter.

Mr. Aussenheimer of the Program Committee, speaking of future programs, mentioned a trip to the Lumaghi Coal Co. mine.

Mr. Abraham introduced our guest speaker, Mr. G. A. Visser, of Leonard & Visser, Industrial Engineers in Granite City, who spoke on the subject of General Electric's "Air Wall" warm air heating system. A liberal period of question-answering followed his very interesting talk.

The minutes of our meeting of March 13 were approved as read.

Mr. Jehle (Public Affairs) spoke of the proposed Air Force College, and the chance of its site being in Illinois, or even in Madison County.

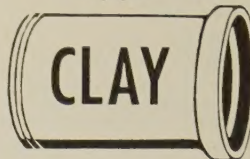
After a discussion of gas tax increase, and further support of efforts to get the so-called Inner Belt Highway at Alton, etc., President Flagg suggested that Mr. Abraham act with the Public Affairs Committee on these matters.

Mr. Wade suggested that, since so many organizations were expressing themselves on such matters, apparently without much coordination of ideas, perhaps there should be some agency to point out what is needed, regardless of what is wanted.

At the close of discussion, the meeting was declared adjourned.

L. K. MEYER, *Secretary*

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DuKane Chapter

Annual Ladies' Nite dinner and program was held at the Red Lion Restaurant, four miles south of Elgin on April 13, 1950. Twenty-four couples, including members and guests, attended the meeting.

President Cash announced that all business would be tabled for consideration at the May meeting. Immediate Past President Walter E. Deuchler of Aurora introduced the guests and members.

Rob Roy introduced "Mystery Man" William Becker, popular magician from Aurora, who entertained the group with a variety of unusual tricks. The feat of freeing himself when chained to a chair was very clever and fascinating to the crowd.

Wes. Wilson and Geo. Bohlig of Elgin were in charge of the dancing which was enjoyed after the dinner. Music during and after the dinner was furnished by Frank Pogoda, accordionist from Elgin.

W. A. RAKOW, *Secretary*

GOODBYE TO BLOWOUTS

A puncture-sealing tire that has no tube, and a tube so strong it can be used without a tire in emergencies are recent advances by tire firms.

The tubeless tire, made of new long-wearing "cold rubber," has a gummy interior that keeps nails or other objects from causing loss of air when they puncture the tire.

And the new tube, while meant for use with tires, has nylon cords for extra strength. If punctured, it leaks air very slowly. It is said to last the life of three tires.